



Department of Justice

United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott
Eastern District of California

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, November 4, 2008
www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae
Case No. 07-cr-0151-JAM

CONTACT: Lauren Horwood
PHONE: (916) 554-2706
lauren.horwood@usdoj.gov

CANADIAN DRUG TRAFFICKER PLEADS GUILTY TO MULTIPLE FELONIES *Supplied Large Quantities of Ecstasy to Sacramento Area Drug Dealers*

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that VICTOR FARUQ, 32, of Vancouver, British Columbia, entered multiple guilty pleas to federal drug trafficking and money laundering charges before United States District Judge John A. Mendez.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the Sacramento High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area team (HIDTA), the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Internal Revenue Service, and the United States Secret Service. The investigation is part of the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) that was established in 1982 to conduct comprehensive, multi-level attacks on major drug trafficking and money laundering organizations. Its principal mission is to identify, disrupt, and dismantle the most serious drug trafficking and money laundering organizations and those primarily responsible for the nation's drug supply.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Jason Hitt, who prosecuted the case, Victor FARUQ admitted in his guilty pleas that between approximately January of 2007 and early April of 2007, he supplied multiple Sacramento-area drug dealers with large quantities of pills popularly known as "ecstasy." "Ecstasy" is the street name given to the illegal drug "MDMA," which is a synthetic, psychoactive drug chemically similar to the stimulant methamphetamine and the hallucinogen mescaline.

During the conspiracy, on April 5, 2007, Sacramento County narcotics detectives served a search warrant at FARUQ's residence at 8614 Statue Way, Elk Grove, Calif. and discovered approximately 300 ecstasy pills, more than \$68,000 in U.S. currency, and a bullet-proof vest with the letters "POLICE" displayed on it.

Detectives also located a key ring in FARUQ's possession. The key ring included a key that opened the door to a residence used by FARUQ to store drugs at 9241 Bruceville Road, Elk Grove. When Sacramento HIDTA members executed a search warrant at the Bruceville apartment, they located approximately 10,000 ecstasy pills. In his guilty plea, FARUQ admitted that the ecstasy pills belonged to him.

FARUQ also pleaded guilty this morning to two separate felony charges of money laundering. Specifically, he admitted that he paid more than \$65,000 in currency in less than 2½ months to buy a 2003 Mercedes Benz S55 AMG. He admitted that he bought the Mercedes using proceeds from his ecstasy trafficking and registered the vehicle in the name of his friend to conceal and disguise that his drug money paid for the Mercedes. In addition, FARUQ admitted that he spent his drug money on an expensive watch from a jewelry store in El Dorado Hills. He

agreed with a co-defendant to conduct an “off the books” transaction to buy the watch using drug money. FARUQ and the jeweler agreed to conceal and disguise that he used drug money to buy the watch.

The defendant is scheduled to be sentenced on January 29, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. The maximum statutory penalty for a violation of both the drug trafficking and money laundering charges is 20 years in prison. However, the actual sentence will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables, and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

Because FARUQ is a Canadian citizen, he will face deportation after serving his federal prison sentence.

#